



Narissa Chadwick
Mayne Island Planner
Islands Trust

By email to nchadwick@islandstrust.bc.ca

25 July 2020

Dear Narissa Chadwick:

Re: MA-RZ-2020.1

I am writing in regard to the Mayne Island Housing Society proposal for an affordable housing project on Village Bay Road, which requires rezoning of a parcel of rural land to facilitate its construction. This is a most welcome initiative and I heartily endorse this proposal.

I have owned property on Mayne for thirty years and when my professional responsibilities permit, I spend as much time as I can here.

I have watched the Island change over the years, but have repeatedly been struck by the limited accommodation available for workers in the key parts of the Island economy. Sustaining our Island community depends on both tourism and food sector workers and the availability of key trades people in the construction and property maintenance businesses.

When I built my house here on the Island fourteen years ago I remember a number of long conversations with John Moore, who was then the proprietor of the Hardware store, about his difficulties finding and keeping workers because of the lack of suitable accommodation. Many of the people he was hiring were trying to live in trailers and very sub-standard housing.

People running the restaurants on the Island have told me similar stories over the years; keeping good staff here requires there be a suitable place for them to live. I

note that there are construction workers on the Island currently living on their building sites in temporary trailers, and it seems that this accommodation problem has never been resolved.

Hence the Island Housing Society proposal is a most welcome initiative. While it alone won't ease all the housing issues, it is a good start. Looking to the future of the Island requires this problem be addressed.

This proposal is one very helpful way forward towards the long-term sustainability of Mayne Island.

Sincerely,



Simon Dalby